

## **REMARKS**

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

### ***Claim Status***

Claims 1-98, 111, 113-116, and 122-127 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 99 and 112 have been amended, and claims 128-145 have been added. Consequently, claims 99-110, 112, 117-121, and 128-145 are currently pending and under consideration.

The new and amended claims correspond to the elected Group II invention. It also is believed that the new and amended claims are supported by the application as originally filed. Independent claim 99 merely incorporates the features of claim 111, and claim 112 has been amended to update its dependency. Previous dependent claim 106 has been rewritten into independent form as new independent claim 135, and previous dependent claims 118-121 have been copied as new dependent claims 136-140. The remaining new dependent claims are merely copies of previously presented dependent claims, and therefore, it is thought that these new claims do not raise any support issues. For example, support for these claims can be found in the drawings at FIGS. 1, 2, 5 and 6, and in the specification at page 1, lines 16-20 and pages 10-14 as well as elsewhere throughout the application.

### ***Allowed and Allowable Claims***

Initially, the applicants wish to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 117-121 and indicating that claims 106-112 contained allowable subject matter in item 20 of the Office Action. In that regard, the features of dependent claim 111 have been incorporated into independent claim 99, and claim 111 has been canceled. As a result, claim 112 has been amended to update its dependency. Dependent claim 106 has been rewritten into independent form as new independent claim 135. Consequently, it is believed that independent claims 99, 117, and 135 along with their respective dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

***Conclusion***

It should be understood that the above remarks are not intended to provide an exhaustive basis for patentability or concede the basis for the rejections in the Office Action, but are simply provided to overcome the rejections made in the Office Action in the most expedient fashion.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is requested to pass the case to issue. If the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned representative by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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